

## RABBIT AND TURTLE

They were neighbors but not very good friends. One day they grumbled with each other because the rabbit began to make fun of the turtle saying, “Oh, you are so small and have such a tiny tail. Why do you always carry your house with you?”

The rabbit laughed at the turtle. Then the turtle said to the rabbit, “Why do you have such long ears and such red eyes?”

Each of them thought he was better than the other. Finally, they decided to have a race from where they were standing to the top of a big hill, to see who was the better of the two.

They started the race. The rabbit ran so fast. The turtle moved ahead slowly step by step. The rabbit ran and almost reached the top of the hill. He thought, “Let’s see, where is that turtle? Oh, I cannot see him.”

The turtle was moving forward one step at a time and was still at the foot of the hill. The rabbit laughed. “If he wants to come this far, it will take him two days.” The rabbit was very confident of his success. He felt a little tired, so he lay down in the shade and fell asleep. While the rabbit was falling a sleep, the turtle had a goal.

\* Discuss about the history.

We usually consider this story to be a criticism of the rabbit for being overconfident. The rabbit took a nap because it was sure he would win, and that’s why he is in wrong. He should run seriously until the end of the race.

The turtle is usually praised. Although he cannot run very fast like the rabbit, he made an effort to run until the end of the race.

\* If we read this story from the Buddhist point of view, the turtle is wrong. He should wake up the rabbit and encourage him to continue the race till the end. And he should have more compassion toward the rabbit.

Discuss the meaning of friendship. - Interdependence

Discuss the meaning of compassion.